



SPARK GAP

Vol. 41, Issue 5, May 2024 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

On Our MARC:

Please join us Saturday, May 18 at 8 am for our monthly club meeting. We have elections coming up this summer, and you need to be a paid member to vote, so please make sure your membership is paid up before the end of the month. Hope to see you Saturday.

73,
Tim
WC9G

CLUB DUES FOR 2024

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is \$25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

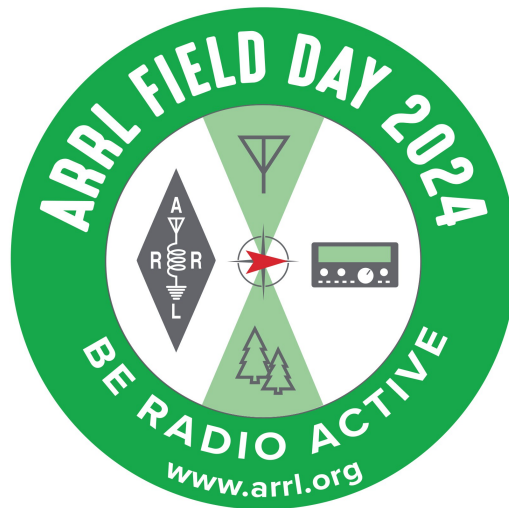
This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2024.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer



Birthdays for the month of May:

*K9BEB - Brandon Burtra,
KC9GCH - Linda Harshbarger
KA9QBF - Joseph Lovrini
KD9YNG - Monty LeClair
N9FEB - Mike Palmer*



2024 ARRL Field Day is June 22-23

MARC will be hosting a ARRL Field Day event in Brown County State Park. It will be a true Field Day being outdoors and in a location where the public can see HAM Radio in action. If you would like to participate from that location as well as camp overnight contact Kyle Burns, AD9CR for more information, kyle@ad9cr.com

Operating Notes: The sun giveth and the sun taketh away

MAY 6, 2024 BY DAN KB6NU

The good news about this point in the sunspot cycle is that the sun is more active, meaning that in general, band conditions are pretty good. Except when they're not.

According to the NOAA:

There are several types of space weather that can impact HF radio communication. In a typical sequence of space weather storms, the first impacts are felt during the solar flare itself. The solar x-rays from the sun penetrate to the bottom of the ionosphere (to around 80 km). There the x-ray photons ionize the atmosphere and create an enhancement of the D layer of the ionosphere. This enhanced D-layer acts both as a reflector of radio waves at some frequencies and an absorber of waves at other frequencies. The Radio Blackout associated with solar flares occurs on the day side region of Earth and is most intense when the sun is directly overhead.

This seems to be happening frequently in the last week or so. You can go to the NOAA site or [SolarHam](#) to learn more than you probably want to know about this.

Radio blackouts are no fun, but they're especially disappointing if you've hauled your gear out for a [POTA](#) activation. I went up to the Island Lake Recreation Area (US-3315) on Saturday afternoon and fought the conditions for a while. I was also competing for calls from the Indiana, New England, and [7th Call Area](#) QSO parties.

I started out on 20 meters, but after making only five contacts, I decided to try 17 meters, where I was able to scratch out a couple more. I then tried 15 meters, but had absolutely non success there, so I went back to 20 meters.

By hunting around for some park-to-park contacts, I was able to make 20 contacts overall, but it took me two and a half hours to do it. I'm not sure if the conditions or the contest competition was the main culprit, but activating on a big contest weekend was probably not the smartest thing to do.

Focus on Public Safety Relationship Building at the 2024 ARRL National Convention

Those attending the 2024 ARRL National Convention at Dayton Hamvention® will have an opportunity to learn more about how amateur radio is relevant and highly involved in the modern emergency management landscape. The convention is May 17 - 19 in Xenia, Ohio. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, will host a booth for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® -- ARES®. The booth will be supported by highly experienced ARES leaders and members of the ARRL Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee.

On Friday, Johnston and four representatives from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) will lead the forum "ARES®, SAFECOM®, and Building Relationships" as part of the ARRL National Convention track. CISA is the federal agency SAFECOM serves. Together, they'll lead a discussion about how amateur radio emergency communications groups can establish and foster relationships with served agencies.

Johnston is ARRL's representative member of SAFECOM®. In 2023, ARRL was elected to serve on SAFECOM®, a program of the US Department of Homeland Security. SAFECOM supports the public safety community to improve the emergency communications ecosystem. This relationship gives ARRL a seat at the decision-making table for emergency communications policy nationwide.

"Amateur radio operators are in a unique position to serve agencies of many different types, but that relationship has to be well established long before a crisis," said Johnston, who emphasized that local partnerships are just as important as national-level relationships. ARES groups work with local, state, and county governments, and non-government affiliated organizations, including local offices of the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and faith-based organizations.

The forum is held on Friday, May 17 at 9:15 AM in forum room three, where the majority of ARRL National Convention programming will take place. The National Convention program is published at www.arrl.org/expo or within in the ARRL Events app. Buy tickets to the convention on the Hamvention website.

..... *ARRL News May 2024*

for OCTOBER, 1947

NEW

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2-WAY RADIOTELEPHONE FOR URBAN AREAS

Motorola FM DISPATCHER

WITH **P.S.** "PRECISION" SELECTIVITY

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COMPLETE
plus tax

The DISPATCHER—another FIRST for Motorola

The Motorola DISPATCHER is a compact, single-unit mobile radiotelephone transmitter and receiver specifically designed for use in noisy urban areas. Easy to install and maintain, with exceptionally low battery drain and highest sensitivity, the Motorola DISPATCHER is the FIRST radiotelephone unit especially and effectively designed for urban communications. The DISPATCHER comes to you as a tried and proved communications unit—after two years of design and field performance testing. It's a Motorola masterpiece!

P. S. . . "Precision" Selectivity

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COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS DIVISION

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It will help if you will service Free ENGINEERING when ordering equipment

Pick from the past of Motorola Radio equipment from the 1950's. Things sure have changed over the years since this baby was manufactured.

MFJ Ceasing On-Site Production

..... ARRL News April 2024

Updated 4:26:24 8:00 pm EDT with additional statement from Martin F. Jue, K5FLU.

MFJ Enterprises, Inc founder Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, announced that as of May 17, 2024, the company will cease on-site production at their Starkville, Mississippi, facility. Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vecronics brand products will be affected by the shutdown. In a letter posted to social media, Jue said he is looking forward to retiring.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything [for] businesses, including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had, and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement, but life is so short, and my time with my family is so precious.

Jue founded MFJ Enterprises in 1972, after building a CW filter kit that sold for less than \$10. Since 1990, the company has acquired several other legacy brands within the amateur radio market. Jue shared that the company will remain open to sell existing inventory because they have “a lot of stock on hand.” They will also continue to offer repair services for the foreseeable future.

Jue expressed gratitude to the many longtime employees of MFJ, some of whom have been with the company for 40 years. He also thanked MFJ dealers and radio amateurs for their patronage over the decades.

He also sent a special message to ARRL Members, and loyal QST readers:

"I give my deepest heartfelt thank you to my fellow hams all over the world and especially to ARRL members and QST readers. In my youth, I was given a second-hand set of 1958 QSTs. I read them over and over until I practically memorized every word. This gave seed to MFJ. MFJ became a worldwide ham radio leader only because of you. As I turned 80, I cannot thank you all enough for 52 wonderful ham radio years. Thank you, 73s . . . Martin F. Jue, k5flu"

INDIANA HAMFESTS 2024

Auburn Hamfest

Start Date: 07/20/2024

End Date: 07/20/2024

Location: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum

1600 Wayne Street

Auburn, IN 46706

Website: <http://w9ou.org>

Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.015 with 141.3 tone

Public Contact: John Chalmers , W9GOO

P.O. Box 145 Auburn, IN 46706

Phone: 260-927-5746

Email: W9OU@arrl.net

Elkhart East Hamfest, ARRL Central Division Convention

Start Date: 08/03/2024

End Date: 08/03/2024

Location: Northern Indiana Event Center

21565 Executive Parkway

Elkhart, IN 46514

Website: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.330+ / 131.8

Public Contact: Dewey Thrash , K9DEW

53464 Baywater Place Bristol, IN 46507

Phone: 574-370-2436

Email: elkharthamfest@gmail.com

Hendricks County Tailgate Fest

Start Date: 08/10/2024

End Date: 08/10/2024

Location: Avon United Methodist Church

6850 E. US Hwy 36

Avon, IN 46123

Sponsor: Ham Emergency Radio Operations

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.130 MHz PL-Tone 88.5

Public Contact: Kenneth A Kayler , KC9SQD

3090 Clover Dr. Plainfield, IN 46168

Phone: 317-874-7068

Email: kc9sqd425@gmail.com

ARANCI Hamfest

Start Date: 08/11/2024

End Date: 08/11/2024

Location: Lake Village Community Center

9728 North 300 West

Lake Village, IN 46349

Sponsor: ARANCI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.330 pl 131.8

Public Contact: Michael Swiader , KA9E

PO Box 215 Lake Village, IN 46349

Phone: 815-409-5070

Email: ka9e@yahoo.com

Hoosier Hills Hamfest

Start Date: 10/12/2024

End Date: 10/12/2024

Location: Lawrence County 4-H Fairgrounds

11265 US-50

Bedford, IN 47421

Website: <https://hoosierhillshamfest.com/>

Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

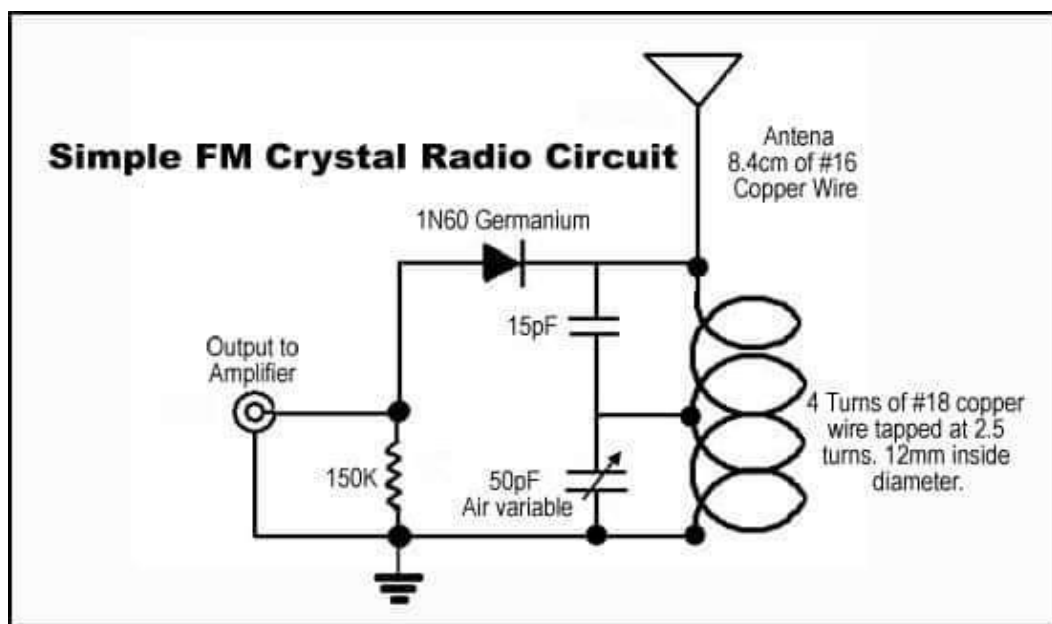
Talk-In: 146.73- PL/107.2

Public Contact: Tim Wray , KB9SNL

PO Box 891 Bedford, IN 47421

Phone: 812-675-6733

Email: bwrs1996@gmail.com





MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM** of each month
at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:
Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Jack Parker – W8ISH
Club P.I.O. : Rhonda Curtis – WS9H

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.



Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.